

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2874
Application No. 10/521,952
Paper Dated May 16, 2007
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 16, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 3824-050246

REMARKS

The final Office Action of February 16, 2007 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment cancels claims 9-12. Accordingly, claims 13, 14 and 16 remain in this application, and claim 13 is in independent form.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 13, 14 and 16 define over the prior art of record. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that claims 13, 14 and 16 are allowed because the Applicants have incorporated the previously allowable features of claim 15 into claim 13.

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of United States Patent No. 6,240,235 to Uno et al. (hereinafter "the Uno patent"). Additionally, claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the Uno patent.

Claim 9-12 have been cancelled by this Amendment, thus rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

The only claims remaining in this application are allowed claims 13, 14 and 16.

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Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Entry of the above amendments and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance on claims 13, 14 and 16 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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